

GLOBE FIRE DEPARTMENT

176 W. Cedar Street
Globe, Arizona 85501
928-425-4432



Guideline

Date: January 10, 2020

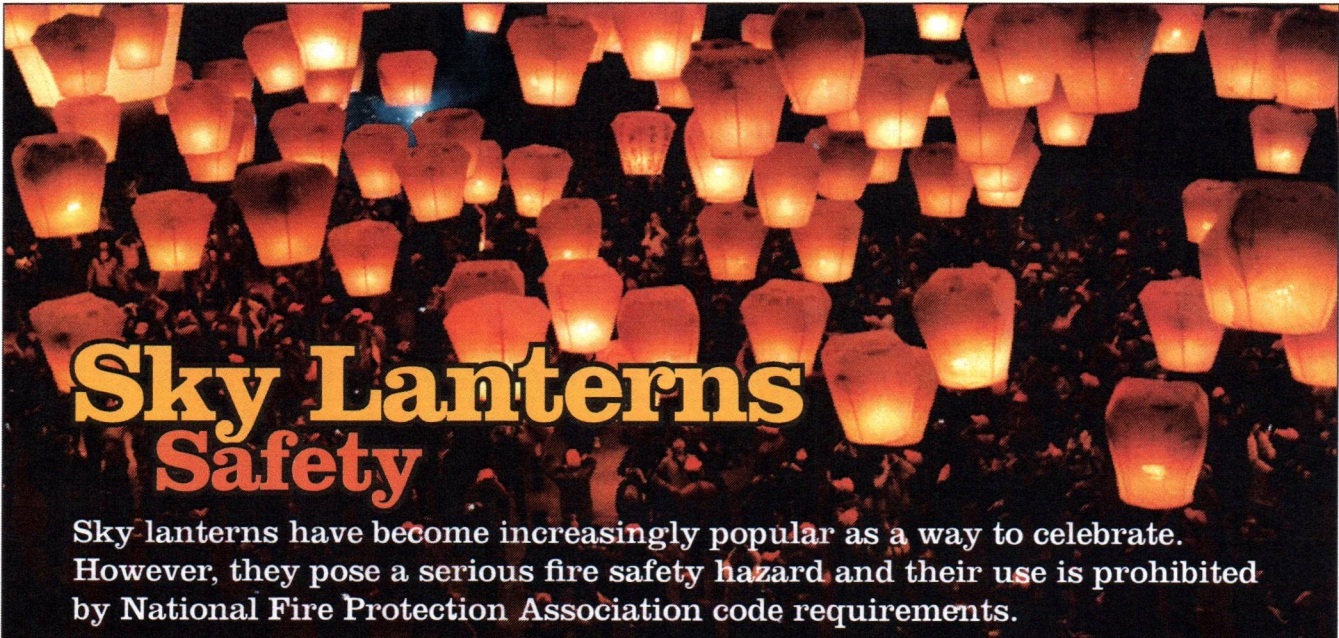
To: Open Flame Users

From: City of Globe Fire Department-Office of the Fire Chief

Subject: Sky Lanterns or Chinese Lanterns

Based on a number of inquiries received by the Globe Fire Department regarding the use of aerial luminaries which are also known as sky lanterns, the Globe Fire Department would like to clarify the following information to the public:

- The use of such an aerial luminary, in any form, is not permitted within the City of Globe.
- Section 308.2.1 of the International Fire Code states "No person shall throw or place, or cause to be thrown or placed, a lighted match, cigar, cigarette, matches, or other flaming or glowing substance or object on any surface or article where it can cause an unwanted fire".
- The City of Globe Fire Department, Fire Prevention Division, under section 104.1 of the International Fire Code is tasked with enforcing the provisions of the Fire Code which includes rendering interpretations of the Code in the protection of lives and property.
- The reasoning for the ban on the use of these devices is that once released, there is no means of controlling the direction they will travel or where they will land. Should they land in an area receptive to burning, an unwanted fire may occur.
- There are several documented fires associated with these devices recently.



Sky Lanterns Safety

Sky lanterns have become increasingly popular as a way to celebrate. However, they pose a serious fire safety hazard and their use is prohibited by National Fire Protection Association code requirements.

- » The lanterns are made of oiled rice paper with a bamboo frame, materials that can easily catch on fire.
- » A candle or wax fuel cell is used with the device.
- » The lit flame heats the inside of the lantern, causing it to rise into the air.
- » Once lit and airborne, it can travel over a mile in distance.
- » Wind can affect the sky lantern, blowing the sides, forcing the hot air out and sending the flaming lantern back to the ground.
- » These lanterns have the potential to cause fires.
- » A flaming lantern can drop onto a rooftop, field, trees or power lines before the flame is fully extinguished.
- » A destructive fire can result when a flaming lantern reaches the ground during dry conditions.
- » Sky lanterns should not be used under any circumstances.

Recent fires

A **sky lantern** landed on the canopy of a country club, igniting the canopy.

Two sky lanterns landed in forested land impacting valuable wildfire firefighting resources.

Peoria Fire-Medical Department

(623) 773-7279



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NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

which creates or adds to a hazardous or objectionable situation.

307.3 Location. The location for open burning shall not be less than 50 feet (15 240 mm) from any structure, and provisions shall be made to prevent the fire from spreading to within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of any structure.

Exceptions:

1. Fires in approved containers that are not less than 15 feet (4572 mm) from a structure.
2. The minimum required distance from a structure shall be 25 feet (7620 mm) where the pile size is 3 feet (914 mm) or less in diameter and 2 feet (610 mm) or less in height.

307.3.1 Bonfires. A bonfire shall not be conducted within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of a structure or combustible material unless the fire is contained in a barbecue pit. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 50 feet (15 240 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

307.3.2 Recreational fires. Recreational fires shall not be conducted within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure or combustible material. Conditions which could cause a fire to spread within 25 feet (7620 mm) of a structure shall be eliminated prior to ignition.

307.4 Attendance. Open burning, bonfires or recreational fires shall be constantly attended until the fire is extinguished. A minimum of one portable fire extinguisher complying with Section 906 with a minimum 4-A rating or other approved on-site fire-extinguishing equipment, such as dirt, sand, water barrel, garden hose or water truck, shall be available for immediate utilization.

SECTION 308 OPEN FLAMES

308.1 General. This section shall control open flames, fire and burning on all premises.

308.2 Where prohibited. A person shall not take or utilize an open flame or light in a structure, vessel, boat or other place where highly flammable, combustible or explosive material is utilized or stored. Lighting appliances shall be well-secured in a glass globe and wire mesh cage or a similar approved device.

308.2.1 Throwing or placing sources of ignition. No person shall throw or place, or cause to be thrown or placed, a lighted match, cigar, cigarette, matches, or other flaming or glowing substance or object on any surface or article where it can cause an unwanted fire.

308.3 Open flame. A person shall not utilize or allow to be utilized, an open flame in connection with a public meeting or gathering for purposes of deliberation, worship, entertainment, amusement, instruction, education, recreation, awaiting transportation or similar purpose in Group A or E occupancies without first obtaining a permit in accordance with Section 105.6.

308.3.1 Open-flame cooking devices. Charcoal burners and other open-flame cooking devices shall not be operated

on combustible balconies or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction.

Exceptions:

1. One- and two-family dwellings.
2. Where buildings, balconies and decks are protected by an automatic sprinkler system.

308.3.1.1 Liquefied-petroleum-gas-fueled cooking devices. LP-gas burners having an LP-gas container with a water capacity greater than 2.5 pounds [nominal 1 pound (0.454 kg) LP-gas capacity] shall not be located on combustible balconies or within 10 feet (3048 mm) of combustible construction.

Exception: One- and two-family dwellings.

308.3.2 Open-flame decorative devices. Open-flame decorative devices shall comply with all of the following restrictions:

1. Class I and Class II liquids and LP-gas shall not be used.
2. Liquid- or solid-fueled lighting devices containing more than 8 ounces (237 ml) of fuel must self-extinguish and not leak fuel at a rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute (1.26 ml per minute) if tipped over.
3. The device or holder shall be constructed to prevent the spillage of liquid fuel or wax at the rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute (1.26 ml per minute) when the device or holder is not in an upright position.
4. The device or holder shall be designed so that it will return to the upright position after being tilted to an angle of 45 degrees from vertical.

Exception: Devices that self-extinguish if tipped over and do not spill fuel or wax at the rate of more than 0.25 teaspoon per minute (1.26 ml per minute) if tipped over.

5. The flame shall be enclosed except where openings on the side are not more than 0.375 inch (9.5 mm) diameter or where openings are on the top and the distance to the top is such that a piece of tissue paper placed on the top will not ignite in 10 seconds.
6. Chimneys shall be made of noncombustible materials and securely attached to the open-flame device.

Exception: A chimney is not required to be attached to any open-flame device that will self-extinguish if the device is tipped over.

7. Fuel canisters shall be safely sealed for storage.
8. Storage and handling of combustible liquids shall be in accordance with Chapter 34.
9. Shades, where used, shall be made of noncombustible materials and securely attached to the open-flame device holder or chimney.
10. Candelabras with flame-lighted candles shall be securely fastened in place to prevent overturning, and shall be located away from occupants using the area

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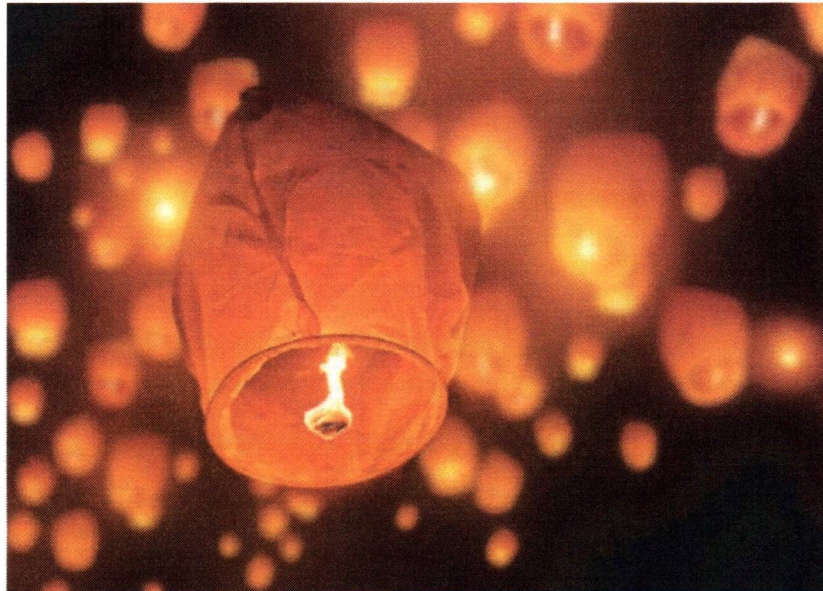
NFPA 1: Sky Lanterns, #firecodefridays

Blog Post created by [kristinbigda](#) on Apr 22, 2016

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Spring has sprung. Outdoor events and celebrations are just around the corner. Sky lanterns have become increasingly popular as a way to celebrate. However, they are a serious fire safety hazard and their use is prohibited by [NFPA 1](#), *Fire Code*, 2015 edition. Section 10.10.9.3 of [NFPA 1](#) states the following:

The use of unmanned, free-floating sky lanterns and similar devices utilizing an open flame shall be prohibited.



The provision of 10.10.9.3 is located under the section for open flame devices and is new to the 2015 edition of the Code. It gives the AHJ specific language that can be used to prohibit the use of unmanned, free-floating sky lanterns and similar devices, such as those depicted in the photo above. The potential hazard posed by sky lanterns should be obvious —once ignited and released, the device becomes an uncontrolled, flying ignition source, whose direction of travel is dependent on the wind direction, which can be unpredictable. Although the combustible fuel load of the device itself might be small, the potential exists for the device to ignite vegetation or other combustibles in the air and cause a significant fire if it is not quickly extinguished.

NFPA offers a free safety tip sheet on sky lanterns to help raise awareness about these potentially dangerous devices and hopefully limit their use. [Check it out!](#)

Have you seen any fires start from the use of sky lanterns?

Visibility: Building & Life Safety • 1189 Views

Last modified on May 31, 2017 5:22 PM

Tags: [nfpa 1](#) [fire code](#) [sky lanterns](#) [nfpa1](#) [firecodefridays](#)

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Krefeld zoo fire: German police suspect three women - BBC News

A tragic case study, illustrating why NFPA 1 prohibits the use of sky lanterns. Although banned in Germany, these were illegally used with deadly results. In turn, the ape house had no sprinkler protection, a requirement now in the Animal Housing Facilities Code (NFPA 150) for all permanent exhibition housing. Hopefully, in time informed public and increased code compliance, two key elements of the Fire and Life Safety Ecosystem, will prevent this type of significant loss of life and property

Actions



Related Content

- Sky Lanterns Prohibited by NFPA 1-2015
- List of Annual 2015 documents issued by the NFPA Standards Council as Consent Standards
- NFPA 1: Instructional and Educational Labs, #firecodefridays
- NFPA 1: Mobile Cooking Operations, #firecodefridays
- NFPA 1: Photovoltaic Systems #firecodefridays

Recommended Content

- Listed Equipment Installation
- I am trying to apply Table 130.7(C)(15)(A)(a) of NFPA 70e
- How to handle hanger and the support for clean gas system according to NFPA 2001
- #101Wednesdays: Revision process for 2021 edition of NFPA 101 starts now!
- Check out these NFPA webinars!

Incoming Links

- NFPA 1: Recent fire code issues in the news, #FireCodefridays
- NFPA 1: How the Fire Code addresses safety for the 4th of July holiday, #FireCodefridays
- NFPA 1: #FireCodefridays in 2016, a year in review
- NFPA 1: How the Code can keep you safe this 4th, #firecodefridays



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